

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent  
*Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15<sup>th</sup> District*



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## Rep. Dent: Defense Appropriations bill includes \$7.3 million for projects in 15<sup>th</sup> District

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) today announced that the 2007 Defense Appropriations Bill includes \$7.3 million in funding for projects and programs in the 15<sup>th</sup> District.

The appropriations bill funds the Defense Department at \$377.6 billion – plus supplemental bridge funding of \$50 billion for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It passed the House and awaits Senate consideration.

“I’m proud to support the technological innovation that keeps our military at the world’s forefront, especially when it is right here in the 15<sup>th</sup> District,” Congressman Dent said.

### Appropriations for the 15<sup>th</sup> District:

- \$1,300,000 to Alcoa-Howmet Casting of Bethlehem, for the execution of the Advanced Aerospace Titanium Structures (AATS) Initiative. The AATS initiative will focus on reducing costs by minimizing fabrication and assembly costs. AATS will rely on applying Alcoa’s Howmet Casting’s state-of-the-art investment casting processes and investigating the use of emerging titanium alloys.
- \$1,000,000 to Edmund Optics of Pennsburg, to provide funding for the Manufacturing of Precision Molded Aspheric Optics for high performance imaging systems to benefit the U.S. Army. This

funding will help eliminate our nation's dependence on foreign sourced products and employ hard working U.S. citizens in high-tech jobs. This is a continuation of a project that was funded this year at \$2.8 million.

- \$3,000,000 for Lehigh Heavy Forge, in Bethlehem, for the implementation of U.S. Navy Nuclear Power Plant and Ship Propulsion Shaft Manufacturing Improvement. Lehigh Heavy Forge is the sole source for many nuclear power plant components and shafts for U.S. Navy submarines and aircraft carriers, and almost all ship shafts for new construction and replacement parts are forged at the Bethlehem site. New funding will allow Lehigh Heavy Forge to improve the manufacturing process and lower the cost of production.
- \$2,000,000 for Lehigh University in Bethlehem, for carrying out Optical Technologies Research. The Army has identified a need for small units of soldiers to have access to sensors, maps, and intelligence that could be provided through hand-held battlefield computers. Lehigh University and the Center for Optical Technologies to build on its collaborative joint programs with researchers at the Army Research Office and Army Research Laboratory in order to advance research in Optical Sensor and Display Technologies, and Optical Networking Technologies. This is a continuation of a program that was funded this year at \$4.1 million.

This is the second year that Congressman Dent has helped secure local funding in the Defense Appropriations Bill. In the 2006 appropriations bill, Congressman Dent, along with U.S. Senator Rick Santorum and U.S. Senator Arlen Specter, secured \$5 million for Night Vision Equipment Co. of Upper Macungie Township for the development of the MX-2 Mini-IR Thermal Imager ("MX-2"). This equipment allows soldiers to view hostile forces in caves, tunnels, sealed buildings, foliage, and battlefield obscurants in both day and night-time settings with decreased chances of detection.

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